

William Shakespeare's

Much Ado About Nothing



CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY
DeVries Theatre

January 28-30, February 4-6

FROM THE DRAMATURG

Shakespeare commonly used plots that his audience would have been familiar with. *Much Ado About Nothing*, written in 1598, certainly falls into that category. The Claudio-Hero storyline comes from an Italian work, “Orlando Furioso” by Ludovico Ariosto, written in 1532, and the Beatrice-Benedick plot came from “The Book of the Courtier” by Baldassare Castiglione, also Italian, written in 1528. The audiences of Elizabethan England were familiar with classic works because of the resurgence of education during that era.

We chose to set *Much Ado About Nothing* in Charleston, South Carolina, at the end of WWII. It is a historic city with military ties. Charleston played an integral part in both the American Revolution and the Civil War. Fort Sumter, a fort just off the coast of Charleston, was built following the War of 1812 and was the site of the beginning of the Civil War. Charleston also has roots in the “Old South” that characterized the Antebellum era. Elements of the social hierarchy and traditions of the “Old South” can be seen throughout the play.

You may be asking why we feel we can take Shakespeare’s work out of the context of Elizabethan England. We’re able to do this because even Shakespeare didn’t perform his plays in period dress. Shakespeare performed his plays in what was modern dress for them. They used the hand-me-downs from the aristocracy to costume the plays, no matter what time or location they were written in. The idea that Shakespearean plays should be costumed in an Elizabethan time period was a Victorian idea that numerous theatrical productions have stuck with.

— Kayla Renee Peterson, Dramaturg

PLAY ON WORDS, a study and discussion reference resource, has been prepared by the production dramaturg and is available without charge at the concessions booth in the theatre lobby. Funding for PLAY ON WORDS is provided by Alpha Psi Omega, the Cedarville University chapter of the national honorary theatre society. These extensively researched guides are provided in order to increase understanding of each play Cedarville University presents for all who share our passion for theatre.

PLEASE SILENCE ALL PAGERS, CELL PHONES, AND WRISTWATCH ALARMS. AS A COURTESY TO THE ACTORS AND THOSE AROUND YOU, DO NOT TEXT OR INSTANT MESSAGE DURING THE PERFORMANCE.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Director

Matthew Michael Moore

Scenic Designer

Robert L. Clements*

Costume Designer

Donald N.C. Jones*

Lighting Designer

Robert L. Clements*

Stage Manager

Timothy Carter*

Assistant Stage Manager

Katherine Marie Nelson*

Production Manager

Timothy Phipps*

Vocal Coach

Rebecca M. Baker*

Dramaturgy Coordinator

Diane Conrad Merchant*

Dramaturg

Kayla Renee Peterson*

PLOT SYNOPSIS

- Benedick, Claudio, Don Pedro, and Don John all return from war to Leonato's home.
- Claudio tells Benedick and Don Pedro of his love for Hero.
- Don Pedro promises to woo Hero on Claudio's behalf.
- Don Pedro devises a plan with Claudio, Hero, and Leonato to trick Beatrice and Benedick into falling in love with each other.
- Beatrice and Benedick are successfully tricked into thinking that one loves the other.
- As the marriage of Claudio and Hero approaches, Don John, with Borachio, plot to discredit Hero so that Claudio won't marry her.
- Claudio and Don Pedro fall for the trick set up by Don John and Borachio.
- Claudio denounces Hero at the wedding.
- Friar Francis convinces Leonato to tell everyone that Hero died.
- Borachio is captured by the watchmen, who overheard his boast of the large sum that he received from Don John.
- With Borachio's confession, Hero's good name is restored, and Leonato wants a public apology from Claudio and requires Claudio to marry Hero's cousin.
- This cousin turns out to be Hero herself, and they are married, as are Beatrice and Benedick.
- The wedding party receives news of Don John's capture.

SETTING

Charleston, South Carolina, at the home of Leonato as WWII is ending

CAST

(In order of appearance)

Leonato, *a wealthy landowner*
Matthew Glenn

Messenger
Allister Littrell

Hero, *Leonato's daughter*
Stephanie Anderson*

Beatrice, *Leonato's niece*
Rachel Scherner*

Ursula, *Hero's assistant*
Jessica Diane Hickling*

Margaret, *Hero's assistant*
Hannah Fletcher

Don Pedro, *a military leader*
Nate Brown

Benedick, *a soldier fighting under
Don Pedro*
Jordan T. Hickling*

Claudio, *a soldier fighting under
Don Pedro*
Jovane Caamaño

Don John, *Don Pedro's
illegitimate brother*
Josiah Smith

Antonio, *Leonato's brother*
Josiah Hutchings

Conrade, *Don John's assistant*
James Lane

Borachio, *Don John's assistant*
Justin B. Hobbs*

Dancers
Caleb Alley
Jordan Doyle
Lauren Macks
Karin Schweibold

Balthasar, *a musician*
Caleb Alley

Dogberry, *a constable in charge of
the Watchmen*
Callan J. Yeates

Verges, *Dogberry's assistant*
Nathanael Biggs

Watchmen
Allister Littrell
Jordan Doyle

Friar Francis
Callan J. Yeates

Sexton, *a police captain
overseeing Dogberry*
Andrew Vitaliti

Secretary, *the Sexton's assistant*
Karin Schweibold

Musicians
Aubrie Compitello, *Piano*
Erin Gollihue, *Vocals*
Chester Jenkins, *Saxophone*
Tim Lukasiewicz, *Bass*
Benjamin Yeh, *Percussion*

**Member of Alpha Psi Omega, Cedarville's chapter of the national honorary theatre society*

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director

Donald N.C. Jones*

Assistant Technical Director

Timothy Phipps*

Assistant Lighting Designer

Rebekah Harris*

Choreographers

John and Ginny Hollins

Dance Captain

Katy E. Russell*

House Manager

Alexander James Mol*

Set Construction / Design

Nathanael Buckner

Timothy Carter*

Justin Garner

Rebekah Harris*

Justin Hobbs*

Amelia Lyons

Bryan Martinez

Gabriel Pyle

Denise Yvette Serna*

Derek Stockwell

Joshua Tucker

Master Electrician

Rebekah Harris*

Electricians

Ashley Barber

Stefanie Betori

Sarah Burch

Emily Bush*

Allyssa Denen

Keely Heyl*

Jessica Diane Hickling*

Rachel Charlee Hoffman*

Josiah Hutchings

James Lane

Kyle Peltz

Brian Perhai

Carolyn Ruck*

Maria Salas

Matt Scheerschmidt

Denise Yvette Serna*

Josiah Smith

Karen Schweibold

Amanda Wheeler*

Light Board Operators

Keely Heyl*

Kyle Peltz

Running Crew

Molly Dinse

Jessica Johnson

Sarah Lawton

April M. Menendez

Ruthie Ray

Joy Starbuck

Wardrobe Managers

David Dion

Evan Felmet

Bethany Ohlin

Costume Supervisors

Matthew Glenn

Jessica Diane Hickling*

Costume Crew

Amy Brown

Sarah Burch

Evan Felmet

Bethany Harpole

Katie Marvin

Melanie Morton

Carolyn Ruck*

Josiah Smith

Properties Supervisors

Katherine Marie Nelson*

Ruthie Ray

Properties Crew

April M. Menendez

Audio Supervisors

David Swick III

Jonathan W. Walburg

Makeup/Hair Supervisors

Jessica Diane Hickling*

Benjamin Scheerschmidt*

Makeup/Hair Crew

Jeanetta Baumer

Jasmine Cook*

Elizabeth Patterson

Grace Pilet

Michelle Strickland

Administrative Assistant

Deb Bissett

CALEB ALLEY (BALTHASAR) is a freshman chemistry major. This is his first college play, and he is very excited. After graduation, he would like to attend dental or medical school so that he can serve the Lord in the States or in missions work.

STEPHANIE ANDERSON* (HERO), a sophomore theatre major, made her DeVries Theatre debut as a rowdy Cockney last year in *My Fair Lady*. She gives all the glory and thanks to Jesus, her joy, for the chance to be in her first Shakespeare play with such a solid group of people.

NATHANAEL BIGGS (VERGES) is a freshman electronic media major from Central California. This is his first theatre production ever, and he is excited about being able to perform Shakespeare. Many thanks to all the talented people who have helped him during this production.

NATE BROWN (DON PEDRO) is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering who spends the little time he can muster dabbling in the theatrical arts. He would like to thank his most wonderful family for feeding these unique and diverse ambitions.

JOVANE CAAMAÑO (CLAUDIO) is a first-year worship and preseminary Bible double major. He thanks God, his Creator and Redeemer, for allowing him to enjoy and minister through Cedarville's remarkable theatre program. He also thanks his mumma for enduring the cold of Ohio to come watch him do something he loves.

TIMOTHY CARTER* (STAGE MANAGER) is a senior theatre design major. He has worked backstage on many Cedarville productions, including the stage manager for *Tuesdays With Morrie* and the lighting designer for *The Miracle Worker*; he also supervises Alford Auditorium, Cedarville's "second theatre." He would like to thank his wife, Mandie, for all of her support. 1 Corinthians 10:31

JORDAN DOYLE (WATCHMAN) is a business marketing major. This is his second show at Cedarville, as he performed last year in *My Fair Lady*. He would like to thank God for directing his life to where it is today and looks forward to where He intends to lead him in the future.

HANNAH FLETCHER (MARGARET) is a senior theatre performance major who is very excited about performing Shakespeare. After graduation, she plans to follow hard after God and to glorify Him through the arts, wherever in the world that may take her.

MATTHEW GLENN (LEONATO) is a junior theatre performance and vocal music double major. This is his second appearance on the mainstage, but he has been involved in community and high school theatre for several years in productions such as *My Fair Lady*, *Footloose*, and *Peter Pan*, among others. He hopes to one day glorify God with his gifts on Broadway and would like to thank his friends and family for their support.

JESSICA DIANE HICKLING* (URSULA) is a junior theatre major with emphases in design and performance. Previous roles at Cedarville include Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker*, Mrs. Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, Lavinia in *The Heiress*, and Henka in *Crossing Delancey*. She would like to praise God for her wonderful family and dedicate this performance to her amazing Grandmother.

JORDAN T. HICKLING* (BENEDICK) is a junior theatre major who has previously appeared on Cedarville's mainstage in *Crossing Delancey* (Tyler), *An Ideal Husband* (Lord Goring), and *The Miracle Worker* (Captain Keller). His goal in life is to honor and glorify God using the gifts God has given him. He would like to remind all men, and especially women, that "man is a giddy thing."

JUSTIN B. HOBBS* (BORACHIO) is a senior theatre major with an emphasis in performance. Justin has performed in a number of shows at Cedarville including *Alice in Wonderland*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Box and Cox* and hopes to continue acting in the future. He would like to thank God, his lovely wife, Laura, and his family.

JOSIAH HUTCHINGS (ANTONIO) is a freshman theatre performance major. This is his first performance at Cedarville. Josiah would like to thank his favorite stage actor and brother, Craig, for being such a great encouragement and supporter.

JAMES LANE (CONRADE) is a freshman theatre major from the small town of Madison, Ohio. Previous acting credits include *Les Miserables* (Joly), *Scrooge* (Young Ebenezer/Fred), *High School Musical* (Jack Scott), and *Seussical the Musical* (Wickersham). James dedicates the show to his family and beautiful girlfriend, Alexandra.

ALLISTER LITRELL (MESSENGER, WATCHMAN) is double-majoring in marketing and finance. This is his first play at Cedarville, but he plans to continue trying out for plays. He is grateful for the chance to be in this production and for his parents' loving support.

LAUREN MACKS (DANCER) is a freshman pharmacy major. This is her first time on the Cedarville stage. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support over the years.

KATHERINE MARIE NELSON* (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) is a junior theatre performance major. She has worked backstage in various contexts and performed in *Flowers for Algernon* and *My Fair Lady*; she is also active in community theatre, where she most recently performed in *Footloose* and *A Christmas Carol*. She hopes to pursue professional nonprofit theatre following graduation.

RACHEL SCHERNER* (BEATRICE) is a senior international studies major. She loves this play and is so excited to be a part of the wonderful cast. She sends thanks to everyone, on and off stage, who has helped this process go smoothly and made this such a fun experience!

KARIN SCHWEIBOLD (DANCER, SECRETARY) is a comprehensive communications major, specializing in theatre. As this is her first year at Cedarville, this is her first performance on this stage. She would like to thank God for His abundant provision and her amazing family who has been with her through thick and thin.

JOSIAH SMITH (DON JOHN) is a theatre major. This is Josiah's first role at Cedarville. He would like to thank his family for their unending support, as well as his advisor, Robert Clements, for encouraging him to follow his dreams.

ANDREW VITALITI (SEXTON) is a senior international social science major and is excited to be appearing in his first show on the Cedarville stage. He would like to thank his Savior and his family for all the gracious blessings they have bestowed upon him!

CALLAN J. YEATES (DOGBERRY, FRIAR) is a sophomore double-majoring in electronic media and theatre performance. He made his Cedarville debut as Colonel Pickering in last winter's *My Fair Lady*, and he plans to pursue the entertainment media industry as both a developer and performer.

UPCOMING THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

You Can't Take It With You

by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman
March 25–27, April 8–10, 2010

Annie

book by Thomas Meehan, music by
Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charnin
February 3–5, 10–12, 2011

The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde
September 30–October 2, 7–9, 2010

See How They Run

by Philip King
April 7–9, 14, 16–17, 2011



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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2010.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.



Home to 3,000 students, Cedarville is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist university of arts, sciences, professional, and graduate programs located on a beautiful 400-acre campus in southwest Ohio.

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